

INCOMING

AMEMBASSY PARIS

**UNCLASSIFIED**

State Department

Control: 1684

ACTION:  
STOESSEL  
INFO:  
MIN  
MINECON  
POL 5  
ULMER  
POLR  
SHAFFEL  
EUCOMIL  
MAS  
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USIST  
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CINCEUR  
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FF

FROM: ATHENS

NO: 22, August 12, 8 PM

ACTION DEPT PARTY 258 INFO PARIS PARTY 22 ANKARA 19  
USCOCOLANDSCOUTHEAST IZMER, MOSCOW 12

P R I O R I T Y

Paris for Stoessel and McGuire

1. Recognizing that Checkmate II must soon be scheduled definitely, or abandoned, I met this afternoon with head Jucmagr, armed service attaches and other chancellery advisors to canvass situation.

ACTION:  
POL  
INFO:  
OES  
ECON  
DEF 11  
PAA

2. My military colleagues unanimous in believing cancellation Checkmate would have adverse effect.

4. However, it is my estimate that holding exercise in form originally planned may now be seized upon and misrepresented by Bulgarians and/or Soviet bloc as threatening or aggressive gesture "deliberately made to increase tensions", which would provide Khrushchev with first rate opportunity throw another violent fit, should he desire do so. Closeness of area to Bulgarian frontier and somewhat spectacular nature of operation might lend some color to this.

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CONTROL 1684

6. Purpose this message primarily inform addressees that further Soviet explosion may well occur if exercise is held, .....  
That publicity has already taken place (Embtel 250) is now an additional factor. I am not competent to judge whether exercise might be shifted less sensitive area (Crete for instance) or held without US battle group participation.

BRIGGS

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VC